had received U.S. aid to popularise new industrial policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details of Memorandum of Understanding signed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) An agreement has been signed between Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 11-6-1992 for the grant of US dollar 1,137,000 by USAID to FICCI. The agreement provides that the purpose of the grant is to help FICCI in creating a conducive climate for supporting implementation of various economic reforms announced by Government of India by conducting Conferences/workshops focussed on the aims and benefits of the new economic policies. Under the agreement, the grant is also intended for identifying areas of common interest for Indo-US Cooperation in commercial activities and establishing linkages between Indian and US Organisations. The estimated duration of the proposed activities of FICCI for which grant is intended is about 18 months commencing from the date of signing of the agreement.

Collections of excise duty on man made fibre

1175. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an additional levy of excise duty on man made fabrics in lieu on sales tax;

(b) whether it is also a fact that against the total annual budgeted amount of Rs. 550 crores only about Rs. 420 crores is collected, whereas there is potential of collection of Rs. 1,000/- crores as excise duty on man made fabrics;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for such huge gap in collection of additional excise duty;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this matter; and

(e) what are the details of steps taken to intensify collection of duty and plug the loopholes responsible for its evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Revised Budget Estimate in respect of man made fabrics for the year 1991-92 was Rs. 580 crores and the actual collection of revenue from man-made fabrics during the year 1991-92 has been provisionally placed at Rs. 570 crores which is close to the Revised Budget Estimate.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Recruitment of SC/ST candidates in Banks functioning in Arunachal Pradesh

1176. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of nationalised bank branches functioning in the State of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the banks are following the guidelines issued by Government of India on reservation policy for employment of SC/ST of Arunachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, what is the total number of SC/ST candidates recruited in these banks in 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(d) if no, SC/ST employee has been recruited, the reasons therefor?